

# MERCIER'S PASTORAL, "COURAGE, BRETHREN," AROUSES GERMANS

"Grand Lessons of Heroism and Patriotism Given by Belgians Will Educate Mind of Generations to Come," Cardinal Writes—Von Bissing Sends "Vigorous Protest to Primate"

## Explanatory Comment

JUST why the Governor General, in the letter given below, should consider that Mercier's appeal to the Kaiser concerning the deportations deprived the Cardinal of any further right to protest about injustices is not clear. Nor is it plain why Von Bissing should so curtly refuse assistance to the prelate unless the Governor General was "touchy" and offended because the Emperor had been directly invoked.

What is evident, however, is the offense taken at the publication of another pastoral letter. The tone of this exhortation, "Courage, My Brethren," is exalting, fearless and sincere, as was the character of all the previous epistles to the diocese.

The following are some extracts from this vibrant document:  
"Is it, indeed, necessary to preach courage to you?  
"And when I say you, I am thinking, of course, directly of the assiduous companions of our misfortune, but my thoughts also go beyond the occupied provinces, to our refugees, our prisoners, our deported, our soldiers."

"Brothers of our army of Liege, of Haelen, Antwerp, of the Yser, of Ypres, of the Cameroon and of East Africa, it is you who are our first instruments of energy. On August 2, 1914, from the heart of all the families of our national aristocracy, you surged forth, with magnificent dash, attesting that nobility in Belgium has kept its traditional significance—the bourgeois classes, solid bulwarks of the nation, arose by your side; a modest employe in our city of Malines has six sons at the front—the people, too, have furnished their contingents of enlisted volunteers, so much the more deserving since their departure left its gap of emptiness and anguish in the fireside; military almoners and stretcher-bearers, who, of their own volition, offered and expended their devotion; the government, which for two years and six months has been engaged in the task with a valor which nothing can tame; our vows make a cortege for these heroes; all form a guard of honor faithful and proud, for the magnificent sovereign who, from the sandbank to which his kingdom is reduced, gives to Belgium and to the world the accomplished example of endurance and of faith in the future."

## Cardinal Mercier's Story

Including his correspondence with the German authorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Meyence of Louvain University and translated by the Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate, England.

### CHAPTER XXXIV

#### Requisition of Copper

AN ORDER of the Governor General dated July 8, 1918, ordered the compulsory declaration of all existing stocks of copper, tin, nickel, bronze, or gun-metal in occupied territory.

By a new order of December 30 all household articles made of tin, brass, copper, etc., were seized and had to be made over the date of delivery being fixed later on for each district. Any one contravening the order was liable to penalties not exceeding five years' imprisonment and 20,000 marks fine.

As soon as these orders came into force, the Cardinal wrote Baron von Bissing as follows:

Archbishop's House, Malines, February 14, 1917.

To His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor General, Brussels.

Sir—The official gazette of laws and orders of July 8, 1916, announces that the military authorities are thinking of commandeering all existing copper, tin and nickel in occupied territory. We could not bring ourselves to believe that the occupying power would ever resort to such measures; but now an order of December 30 confirms that of July 8 and we learn that these regulations are now being enforced.

From the moral and religious point of view adopted by me by reason of my duty as bishop, I respectfully make your Eminence a dual request:

First, That you will not regard as guilty those who in their conscience believe that they cannot actively lend a hand in carrying off the commandeered metals.

Second, That you would kindly take into account that, according to canon law, the goods of religious communities, seminaries, episcopal colleges, as well as those of the "fabriques," are ecclesiastical property and therefore cannot be alienated without the sovereign pontiff's sanction.

To be fair, I must inform your Excellency that I can neither co-operate myself nor allow those under me to co-operate in the alienation of these goods.

Receive, sir, the assurance of my sincere esteem.  
(Signed) D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER, Archbishop of Malines.

### CHAPTER XXXV

#### The Governor General Requests the Cardinal to Restrict the Consumption of Coal in the Churches

Political Department of the Government General, Brussels, Feb. 9, 1917.

To His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines.

Your Eminence is not unaware that at the present moment a great dearth of coal is making itself felt. As the weather continues to be bitterly cold, it is useful for this fuel to be everywhere used with the greatest economy, so the government has taken steps to limit the consumption of coal. As regards fuel economy, those churches which are heated must fall into line with the rest. The Governor General requests me to draw your attention to this matter and leaves it to you to judge what steps you think ought to be taken so that the coal restrictions imposed upon everybody in the public interest may be complied with.

Please receive the assurance of my sincere esteem.  
(Signed) LANCKEN.

The coal shortage was due solely to the German requisitions, for, as the Cardinal showed in his letter of November 2 to Baron von Bissing, reproduced later on, the wartime output of the Belgian mines, had it been left at the disposal of the people, would have admitted the distribution of approximately three tons of coal a year to each of the population. But the greater part of the output was commandeered by the German Government, which, in order to secure a supply of gold, sold it to neutral countries at a handsome profit. Meanwhile the Belgian people—for the common good, said Baron von der Lancken—had to deprive themselves of fuel during the most intense cold.

### CHAPTER XXXVI

#### The Cardinal's Pastoral Letter "Courage, Brethren"

THE Cardinal's Lenten pastoral for the year 1917, beginning, "Courage, brethren," was read in all the churches of the diocese on Sunday, February 25.

It was divided into two sections. In the first the Cardinal dilated upon the moral greatness of the nation; he did homage to the valor of the army and the soldiers, the patience of the refugees, the firmness of the government and the undaunted courage of the King. "If," said he, "there were some dark clouds in the sky, they would dissolve in the course of history and allow nothing to shine forth but the moral beauty of the nation, its glowing patriotism, its staunch resolve. The grand lessons of military heroism and patriotism

## UN MESSAGGIO DEL POETA AI FRANCESI

Il Monito di Gabriele D'Annunzio alla Francia Riguardo Fiume e la Dalmazia

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Parigi, 18 gennaio—Verso la fine del pomeriggio di sabato, dopo le elezioni presidenziali, migliaia di manifestanti verdi furono gettati sopra la città di Parigi da un aeroplano. Il contenuto dei manifesti era un messaggio di D'Annunzio, portato dal giovane tenente Carmignani, dello Squadrone Aereo delle forze del posto.

Il Tenente lasciò Fiume alle ore 7,32 della mattina e cominciò il volo seguendo la rotta Venezia, Torino, Chambéry, Lione e Digione. "Egli traversò" le Alpi ad un'altezza di 4000 metri. Nel messaggio si legge quanto segue:

"Alla Francia eterna, sopra il più forte a più celere dei miei velivoli, porto il saluto che sia attestato novello della potenza e della bellezza del nostro ideale invito di giustizia e libertà."

"Mando un saluto fraterno, a voi italiani, mentre si tenta di imporvi il giogo di un vecchio testardo il quale, a causa della sua senilità, è restato a valutare le forze prodigiose della vita rinnovata e crudelmente le ferisce nelle loro alte aspirazioni."

"Se il patto cordato di ingiustizia sarà consumato ai danni di Fiume italiana e delle città italiane della Dalmazia, la battaglia sarà inevitabile ed il sangue più arido sarà versato."

Belgrado, 18 gennaio—Il seguente comunicato semi-ufficiale fu qui pubblicato a tarda ora:

"Secondo notizie da Baccari (a 5 miglia ad est di Fiume) i rappresentanti della città di Fiume tennero ieri una riunione e deliberarono di raccomandare che D'Annunzio lasci Fiume più presto possibile."

"Corrispondenti da Spalato segnalano, secondo rapporti da buona autorità, che gli Arditi e volontari a Zara stanno preparando di incendiare

a città all'ultimo momento, quando dovevano essere dati all'Jugoslavia. "L'arrivo di una nave da guerra e' attesa e gli italiani si preparano a resistere a tutti i costi quando giungeranno le nostre truppe."

(Il telegramma di cui sopra e' uno dei molti dovuti alla propaganda insidiosa dei serbi-croati-jugoslavi, e non merita commenti. N. d. R.)

Roma, 18 gennaio—Lo sciopano degli impiegati postali e telegrafici e telefonici e' virtualmente cessato.

Soltanto una mia inna minoranza, trascurabile, non ha fatto ritorno ai propri uffici. I servizi hanno ricominciato a procedere quasi normalmente.

### Cable Briefs

Advisers from Riga are to the effect that Lettish troops are driving the Reds back all along the line from the Estonian border to the junction point with the Poles. The Letts now ridicule the threat that the Bolsheviks will overwhelm them with their counter-stroke.

"Let them come," said a Lettish officer. "The more there are the more will be killed." The Letts say the Bolshevik army is an army of slaves who hate their masters but dare not rebel because of the spy system in the ranks, and that they are easy to defeat.

Enault Pelletier, French aviator and constructor, ridicules the idea of Professor Goddard, of Clark University, that a rocket to reach beyond the earth's atmosphere is possible. He declares that even if the American has found a gas powerful enough to drive his rocket 200,000 feet through air the initial velocity would have to be 40,000 feet per second, and it would take twenty-four minutes and nine seconds to reach the space beyond. The journey from the earth to the moon would take forty-eight and a half hours, he says.

Reopening of trade relations with Bolshevik Russia has caused considerable uproar in Paris. All sorts of arguments on the subject are heard. On only one phase are all agreed—England is to blame. Italy's need for Russian wheat and corn is believed to have been the fundamental cause for the move.

Germany is unable to take any action to prevent Russian Bolsheviks invading Poland, an official of the Berlin foreign office said yesterday. Regardless of the political phases of the situation, he said, Germany has neither the men nor the material to spare on foreign soil, and therefore must adopt a hands-off policy.

The question of the cash value of a

### TURKS VOICE PROTEST

#### Oppose Peace Conference's Reported Intention to Dismember Country

Constantinople, Jan. 14 (delayed)—(By A. P.)—Protests against the reported intention of the Peace Conference to dismember the Turkish empire and to internationalize this city were voiced at a great mass-meeting here today. Orators denounced on Turkey's "inalienable rights" to Constantinople.

Resolutions were adopted declaring Constantinople should be maintained as the capital of Turkey, demanding the evacuation of Smyrna and adjacent regions by the Greeks; asking for an immediate conclusion of peace; asserting the integral sovereignty of the Turkish nation should be maintained over territories in which the majority of the inhabitants are Turks, and giving assurance that the rights and interests of Christian or Turkish minorities would be safeguarded.



Miss Mary DeVincentis

We present Miss DeVincentis, of South Philadelphia, who for a year and a half was chief clerk of Local Board No. 3 at a salary of \$100 a month. She is now 18 years of age.

Miss DeVincentis received her elementary education in the Campbell Grammar School and, of course, received her training in shorthand, typewriting and bookkeeping in Strayer's Business College, from which she was graduated in November, 1917.

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